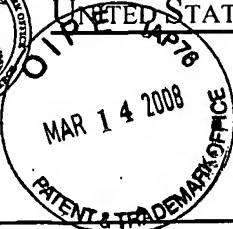




UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,126	11/26/2003	Hiroyuki Takahashi	50049-042	4838

EXAMINER	
HANDY, DWAYNE K	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1797	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
03/12/2008	PAPER

7590 03/12/2008
MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY
600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/722,126

Applicant(s)

TAKAHASHI ET AL.

Examiner

DWAYNE K. HANDY

Art Unit

1797

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/5/04, 5/20/04 & 2/27/07</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 2-12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 2 recites the limitation "the vessel" in line 2, the limitation "the outer periphery" in line 4, the limitation "the top" in line 5, and the limitation "the other end" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim. Claim 2 also recites the term "self-supported". This term is unclear as it is unclear to the Examiner as to what structural features are claimed by the term "self-supported". Claim 2 also contains the phrase "shaped **like** a long and narrow trapezoid". The term "like" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear what specific shapes meet the limitation of being shaped "**like** a long and narrow trapezoid".

Claim 3 recites the limitation "the end". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 4 recites the limitation of the retaining part being "shaped like an inverse cup". The term "like" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear what specific shapes meet the limitation of being shaped "**like** an inverse cup". Claim 4 recites the

limitation "the center of the top". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 5 recites the limitation "the end". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the connecting shaft of the connecting part" in lines 3-4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for both of these terms in the claim.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the end". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 6 recites the limitations "the side" and "the base". There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim. Claim 6 also contains the limitation of the end of an arm having a "slight chevron shape". This is unclear. The term "slight" is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. How far may the shape deviate from a full chevron shape while still meeting the limitation of a "slight chevron shape"?

Claim 7 recites the limitation "the surface of a chevron shaped top". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 8 contains the phrase "shaped **like** a hollow cylinder". The term "like" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear what specific shapes meet the limitation of being shaped "**like** a hollow cylinder".

Claim 9 recites the limitation "the connecting part" in line 3, "the shaft supports" in lines 4-5, and "the cap body" in line 6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim 10 recites the limitation "the inner bottom" in lines 2-3, the limitation "the end of an arm support member" in lines 3-4, and "the back" in line 6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim 11 recites the limitation "the symmetric shaft bearings" in lines 2-3, the limitation "the side walls" in line 3, and "the arm" in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Perrella (4,095,712). Perrella teaches a hinged closing element. The closing element is best shown in Figures 1-3 and described in column 2. The closing element is comprised of a sealing member (flap – element #15), a pressurizing member (surface - #19), and retaining part (17). Instructions for using the closure are given in column 2, lines 54-62. The instructions disclose that applying pressure on surface 19, causes the flap 15 to open; releasing the pressure results in closing the flap.

5. Claims 1, 3, 8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ostrowsky (4,095,712). Ostrowsky teaches a press-to-open closing element. The element is best shown in Figure 5-7 – esp. Figure 6. The closing element includes a sealing member (closure -#40), a pressurizing member (arm - #32) and a retaining part (arm - #34). Ostrowsky provides on how to use the closure in column 5, lines 33-50. When pressure is applied on arm 32, closure member 40 opens; when the pressure is released, the closure element returns to the closed position.

Inventorship

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

8. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ostrowsky (5,735,438). Ostrowsky teaches every element of claim 13 except for the collection of material. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, however, to also collect materials using the container and closure of Ostrowsky. One would use the container and closure of Ostrowsky in order to take advantage of the one-handed operation of the closing element while collecting materials to be stored in the container.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ostrowsky (4,776,501), Baker et al. (6,763,945), Hins (6,336,574), Knickerbocker et al. (6,283,333), Robbins, III et al. (5,894,965) Campbell (5,273,177) and Taber et al. (4,607,768) teach closure systems operating by pressing.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DWAYNE K. HANDY whose telephone number is (571)272-1259. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on (571)-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DKH
March 3, 2008

/Jill A. Warden/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1797

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 10/722,126		Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination TAKAHASHI ET AL.	
	Examiner DWAYNE K. HANDY		Art Unit 1797	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-4,095,712	06-1978	Perrella, Emilio	220/254.5
*	B	US-5,735,438	04-1998	Ostrowsky, Efrem	222/153.06
*	C	US-4,776,501	10-1988	Ostrowsky, Efrem M.	222/517
*	D	US-6,763,945	07-2004	Baker et al.	206/540
*	E	US-6,336,574	01-2002	Hins, Johannes	222/518
*	F	US-6,283,333	09-2001	Knickerbocker et al.	222/153.14
*	G	US-5,894,965	04-1999	Robbins et al.	222/444
*	H	US-5,273,177	12-1993	Campbell, Phillip J.	220/281
*	I	US-4,607,768	08-1986	Taber et al.	222/556
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.



Docket No.: 50049-042

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Customer Number: 20277
	:	
Hiroyuki TAKAHASHI, et al.	:	Confirmation Number: 4838
	:	
Serial No.: 10/722,126	:	Group Art Unit: 1744
	:	
Filed: November 26, 2003	:	Examiner: Unknown
	:	
For: REAGENT VESSEL CAP AND METHOD FOR COLLECTING REAGENT	:	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop IDS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the documents be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

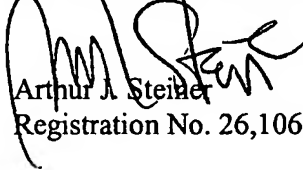
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

10/722,126

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY



Arthur J. Steiner
Registration No. 26,106

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
(202) 756-8000 AJS:tlb
Facsimile: (202) 756-8087
Date: April 5, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION

 ATTY. DOCKET NO.
50049-042

 SERIAL NO.
10/722,126

 APPLICANT
Hiroyuki TAKAHASHI, et al.

 FILING DATE
November 26, 2003

 GROUP
1744

(PTO-1449)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Foreign Patent Document Country Codes-Number + Kind Codes (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Figures Appear	Translation	
						Yes	No
		JP 5-294354	11/09/1993	SYNTEX USA INC		(Japan w/English Abstract)	
		JP 11-194132	07/21/1999	DADE BEHRING MARBURG GMBH		(Japan w/English Abstract)	
		JP P2000-137032A	05/16/2000	OLYMPUS OPTICAL CO LTD		(Japan w/English Abstract)	
		EP 0 543 638 A1	05/26/1993	SYNTEX (U.S.A) INC.		In English	
		WO 95/08774	03/30/1995	ABBOTT LABORATORIES			
		JP P34-48061	07/04/2003				

OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /DH/ (03/03/2008)

EXAMINER

/Dwayne Handy/ (03/03/2008)

DATE CONSIDERED

03/03/2008

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Docket No.: 50049-042



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Customer Number: 20277
Hiroiyuki TAKAHASHI, et al. : Confirmation Number: 4838
Serial No.: 10/722,126 : Group Art Unit: 1744
Filed: November 26, 2003 : Examiner:
For: REAGENT VESSEL CAP AND METHOD FOR COLLECTING REAGENT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop IDS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the documents be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

10/722,126

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY



Stephen A. Becker
Registration No. 26,527

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
(202) 756-8000 SAB:gav
Facsimile: (202) 756-8087
Date: May 20, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION

(PTO-1449)


 ATTY. DOCKET NO.
50049-042

 SERIAL NO.
10/722,126

 APPLICANT
Hiroyuki TAKAHASHI, et al.

 FILING DATE
November 26, 2003

 GROUP
1744

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US 5,901,885	05/11/1999	Iida	
		US 2,378,451	-	W.E. Vensel	
		US 3,384,275	-	James B. Simms	
		US 6,257,452 B1	07/10/2001	Allen	
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Foreign Patent Document Country Codes-Number + Kind Codes (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Figures Appear	Translation	
						Yes	No
		AUP. 207063	01/11/1960	-			x

OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /DH/ (03/03/2008)

EXAMINER

/Dwayne Handy/ (03/03/2008)

DATE CONSIDERED

03/03/2008

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.



dfw

Docket No.: 050049-0042

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Customer Number: 20277
	:	
Hiroyuki TAKAHASHI, et al.	:	Confirmation Number: Not Yet Assigned
	:	
Application No.: 10/722,126	:	Group Art Unit: 1743
	:	
Filed: November 26, 2003	:	Examiner: Dwayne K. Handy
	:	
For: REAGENT VESSEL CAP AND METHOD FOR COLLECTING REAGENT		

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

Each reference was first cited in a corresponding foreign application office action and its relevance discussed therein. A copy of the foreign office action, together with an English language version thereof, is attached for the Examiner's information.

10/722,126

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,
including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to
such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

Bernard P. Gadd (Reg. No. 46,429)
for
Stephen A. Becker
Registration No. 26,527

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
Phone: 202.756.8000 SAB:sln
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
Date: February 27, 2007

**Please recognize our Customer No. 20277
as our correspondence address.**



SHEET 1 OF 1

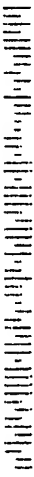
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 050049-0042		SERIAL NO. 10/722,126			
(PTO-1449)		APPLICANT Hiroyuki TAKAHASHI, et al.					
		FILING DATE November 26, 2003		GROUP 1743			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear		
		US					
		US					
		US					
		US					
		US					
		US					
		US					
		US					
		US					
		US					
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Foreign Patent Document Country Codes-Number & Kind Codes (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Figures Appear	Translation Yes No	
		JP 10-035709	10/02/1998	NIPPON I P KK		JAPAN (w/ English Abstract)	
		EP 0 714 834 A1	06/05/1996	CHIN-HO HSU		x	
		JP 11-304805	11/05/1999	HORIBA LTD		JAPAN (w/ English Abstract)	
OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.					
		Japanese Office Action for Corresponding Application No. 2002-343448 Issued July 25, 2006					
		ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH /DH/ (03/03/2008)					
EXAMINER /Dwayne Handy/ (03/03/2008)			DATE CONSIDERED 03/03/2008				

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

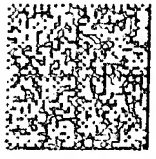
1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

701 500

PERMITS



Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
If Undeliverable Return in Ten Days



UNITED STATES POSTAGE
\$01.31
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 22314

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

RECEIVED
MAR 14 2008
USPTO MAIL CENTER